

SPRING + SUMMER 2020

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A MAGAZINE *for our* RESIDENTS



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

A portrait of Mayor Quinton Lucas, a Black man with a shaved head, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. A small heart-shaped pin with the letters 'KC' is on his lapel. The background is a blurred cityscape.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR MAYOR

Quinton Lucas

What a productive six months it's been in Kansas City, made all the better by our Chiefs bringing the Vince Lombardi trophy home for the first time in 50 years! I'm proud and grateful that all of our fans showcased Kansas City's class on the national stage both during the game and during celebrations downtown.

As we quickly approach springtime, I hope you're gearing up for warmer weather and longer days. This fall, I went on my first hike through Swope Park, and I'm ready to keep exploring our city this spring — I challenge all of us to get outside more often and take advantage of all that Kansas City has to offer!

We remain in full budget mode at City Hall, working to spend your taxpayer dollars responsibly and fix potholes, upgrade our infrastructure, invest in more mental health services and provide our first responders the tools they need to help keep our community safe.

Public transit plays a crucial role in building a more equitable, mobile and climate-conscious community, and we're also actively working to implement our #ZeroFareTransit initiative, which will soon make Kansas City the first major U.S. city to provide fare-free public transportation for all of its residents. Our new Prospect MAX bus line — which runs through our city's urban core — is already fare-free for all riders. If you've never utilized our city's public transportation, I hope you'll consider hopping on this bus line.

Thank you for being so engaged with my office during our first few months here. I hope that throughout my term you'll continue providing your feedback, attending City Council meetings and letting me know how you think we're doing. I also hope to see you at one of my #YOUandMayorQ townhall meetings, which I host one Saturday per month, each in a different district throughout our community.

Please never hesitate to reach out to my office by phone at 816-513-3500, by email at MayorQ@kcmo.org, or on Twitter @MayorLucasKC.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Quinton Lucas in white ink.

MAYOR QUINTON LUCAS

Table of Contents

THE MOST SUPER DAY! 01-04	TRASH TAKEOVER 05-06	NEW ANIMAL CARE CAMPUS 07-08	OUR NEW ART ADMINISTRATOR 09-10
WE'RE BUILDING KCI 11-12	INTERNAL CREATIVITY 13-14	COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING 15-16	PATCHING POTHOLE 17-18
SPEAKIN' EASY 18	2020 CENSUS 19-20	HONORING MLK + SUNSHINE REQUESTS 21-22	CITY COUNCIL + RESOURCES 23-24

On the cover



Our **KCMORE SPRING + SUMMER 2020 ISSUE** cover story features Splat, a dog who found his fur-ever home from the **KANSAS CITY CAMPUS FOR ANIMAL CARE!** The Campus had its grand opening on January 1, 2020 and is operated by KC Pet Project, under contract to the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

Read the story starting on page **07** or learn more about the City's Campus for Animal Care by visiting **KCPETPROJECT.COM**

Staff

CHRIS HERNANDEZ, City Communications Director

ROD RICHARDSON, City Editor

KAREN LIM, Graphic Designer + Photographer

JOSE GONZALEZ, Graphic Designer + Photographer

**This is a City of
Kansas City, Missouri
publication**

From the **CITY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

Visit **KCMO.GOV/COMMUNICATIONS**





Behind the Scenes of the Best Super Bowl Parade Ever!

WRITTEN BY: Colleen Doctorian

PHOTOS BY: Colleen Doctorian, Gabby Lovelace, Jose Gonzalez, Karen Lim, and Brandon Smith

Kansas City is a great sports town. We love to watch and support our teams, and we really love to celebrate championships. So when it came time to honor the best professional football team in the world, you know we had to do it big!

Kansas City Chiefs fans from across the region came out on Feb. 5 in full force to celebrate winning Super Bowl LIV, lining Grand Avenue from 6th Street all the way to Union Station. The hillside north of Union Station was also filled with excited fans, who braved the frigid temperatures to celebrate with their favorite team.

The City, along with the KC Sports Commission, began setting the stage for the parade before the Super Bowl, hoping the Chiefs would bring their second Lombardi Trophy back to KC. More than 14 staff members from the KC Sports Commission and numerous workers from nearly every City Department helped plan the parade and rally at Union Station.

Most fans who attended this raucous event likely weren't even old enough to have attended the

parade held when the Chiefs last won the Super Bowl in January 1970. But they certainly seemed like parade veterans, cheering on cue throughout the rally each time the announcers belted out pleas to praise the Chiefs, led by uber-popular stars Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce, Tyrann Mathieu and Chris Jones.

Our staff was also plenty excited to be a part of the celebration, as workers built floats, hung banners along the parade route and at Parks locations citywide. They also installed parking signs all over before the crowds started forming.

Other fun notes to consider:

APPROXIMATELY 650 emergency no parking signs were installed

MORE THAN 100 banners were hung

SNOW CREWS were positioned to immediately respond to expected precipitation

KCFD AND KCPD HAD ALL HANDS ON DECK before, during and after

the parade and rally

There also were lessons learned from our last championship parade. One of the big complaints after the Kansas City Royals World Series parade was the lack of portable toilets. This time we had 700 port-a-potties available. Also, more than 36,000 people signed up for our text messaging system, AlertKC about the parade, making communications more effective.

Following the parade, city workers cleaned up more than 1,100 pounds of confetti and 25 tons of trash was collected by Public Works, Parks, Water and Neighborhood employees.

Thanks again to the KC Sports Commission and O'Neill Events – great partners in planning and staging our world champion events.

And a special thanks to the thousands of city employees who work hard when we celebrate a world championship with a parade and victory rally.



Brandon Smith



Jose Gonzalez



Gabby Lovelace



Karen Lim



Karen Lim



Karen Lim



Karen Lim



Karen Lim



Jose Gonzalez



Jose Gonzalez



Karen Lim



Brandon Smith



Karen Lim



Karen Lim



Brandon Smith



Jose Gonzalez



Karen Lim



Karen Lim

In-house trash collection goes citywide on May 1

WRITTEN BY: *John Baccala*

PHOTOS BY: *Karen Lim*

Michael Shaw likes talking trash. In fact, he is the city's biggest trash talker. Shaw is the manager of the city's Solid Waste Division and beginning May 1, he'll back up the trash talk when the division begins citywide collection service.

The city has used contractors to collect trash in the Northland and south of 63rd Street but in recent years, citizen satisfaction and service levels dropped faster than a trash bag disappears into a dumpster. Shaw knew bringing citywide trash service in house was a better way to get the job done.

"Trash collection should never be a problem," Shaw said. "It is a basic city service and we are committed to ensuring it is done correctly every, single, week!"

More than a year ago, Shaw began putting pen to paper and realized in house, citywide trash services would not only provide higher service levels, but save money. He estimates in-house trash collection will save the city nearly \$20 million over a 10-year period.

"The goal is to be on time and on task with all trash collections," Shaw said.

As you might imagine, gearing up

for citywide trash service was no overnight task. Solid Waste has more than doubled the number of trash trucks in its fleet and during a job fair in February, hired nearly 75 additional workers. Shaw said supervisory positions were added to "ensure consistent, effective and efficient collection." And thanks to technology, efficiency can be easily tracked.

The new trucks are equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS) and an iPad and use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), not only reducing their carbon footprint, but saving money (as low as 69 cents per gallon for CNG vs. \$4+ per gallon for diesel fuel). Solid Waste's new state-of-the-art work management software will soon allow residents to see, through a web portal, exactly where their trash truck has been and when their trash was picked up.

"We want to meet residents' needs and residents don't need to wonder if their trash is going to be picked up," Shaw said.

New employees began training almost immediately after being hired and drivers are rolling through neighborhoods across the city on dry runs, ensuring when the calendar flips to May 1, Solid Waste is ready to go. But like any new service, Shaw said expect some adjustments and transition.

For several months after the May 1 implementation, trash routes will be rebalanced to maximize effectiveness and consistency of collection citywide. Shaw said it is important for residents to have their trash out by 7 a.m. on their designated trash day while routes are being adjusted.

"We ask the public be patient

during these first few months of implementation because the time of trash pickup could change," Shaw said. "Except for a few houses, the day will not change.

"And, as always, if you have a problem with your trash collection, contact 311 for assistance."

311 calls peaked in July 2018 when residents, primarily in the Northland, began expressing their discontent. The city supplemented the contractor by sending crews north of the river to help. Shaw doesn't expect those issues to exist after May 1. "We heard what residents were saying and we're fixing it," Shaw said.

First District Councilwoman Heather Hall and Second District Councilman Dan Fowler pushed Solid Waste for "wholesale program improvements," thus the Solid Waste Improvement Plan was created. "We did extensive research and determined this (in house trash service) was the best way forward," Shaw said.

There are other 'value added' benefits to in house trash collection. Shaw said the move allows Solid Waste to increase response to illegal dumping, enhance neighborhood clean-ups and improve bulky item pick-ups. Bulky item collection will now be verified through before and after photos. The city's recycling services in the Northland and south of 63rd Street will still be handled by contractors, but Shaw said recycling too, eventually, might be done in house. It's all about putting the 'basics' back in a basic city service.

For more information on recycling and trash, visit **KCMO.GOV/TRASH**.

"Trash collection should never be a problem. It is a basic city service and we are committed to ensuring it is done correctly every, single, week!"

MICHAEL SHAW

MANAGER, SOLID WASTE DIVISION *for the*
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI





"We were all just so excited to know what the future held for our city's pets and our organization at the new campus."

TORI FUGATE

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER,
KC PET PROJECT

GOkc
PUBLIC BUILDINGS

New KCMO Animal Care Campus running in the right direction

WRITTEN BY: *Tori Fugate*

PHOTOS BY: *Reames Photography*

When the doors to Kansas City's new city-owned shelter opened on Jan. 1, 2020, the only participants more excited than the 250 pets being housed there were the staff, volunteers and officials who have lobbied for years to build a facility that would make all of us proud.

The Kansas City Campus for Animal Care is operated by KC Pet Project, who operates the shelter under contract to the City of Kansas City, Missouri. It was built with support from GO KC bonds and support from private donors and is located at 7077 Elmwood Ave., right down the street from the Kansas City Zoo and Starlight Theatre. This shelter is three times larger than the old facility on Raytown Road and features many upgrades, including:

MODERN HOUSING that is separated by species

INDOOR MEET & GREET ROOMS

SPACIOUS LOBBIES for adoptions and admissions

STATE-OF-THE-ART VETERINARY CLINIC (not open to the public at press time)

OUTDOOR PLAY YARDS for potential adopters to meet their

new best friends

The adoptions lobby also features a retail space with items for new adopters and pet-lovers to purchase for their pets. Plus, there's a Roasterie Coffee Shop, which has a counter inside as well as an exterior window that's open to the public in the mornings.

Reaching this point has been a labor of love. The bulk of the funding for this \$26 million facility came from the 2017 bond proposal that Kansas City voters overwhelmingly approved so that city officials could tackle infrastructure problems throughout the city, including the animal shelter. Once the money was in place, it was time to design, build and move.

Moving the animals to the new campus in Swope Park was so small feat. Fortunately, there were several familiar faces on hand to assist. Mayor Quinton Lucas led a contingent of local celebrities and volunteers who loaded up dogs and cats in their cars for the short drive to the campus.

"It was such a fun day and it was also very emotional to see animals leaving behind our shelter on Raytown Road," said Tori Fugate, Chief Communications Officer of KC Pet Project. "We had all of the dogs in one room at the old shelter, cats in former office spaces, a vet clinic in a construction trailer and a building that was beyond its usable life. Our team for the past eight years has poured our hearts and souls into our work to save the pets of Kansas City, and we did that out of a former construction shed. We were all just so excited to know what the future held for our city's pets and our organization at the new campus."

The grand opening happened Jan. 24, with hundreds braving the elements on a snowy morning to hear remarks from Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, KC Campus for Animal Care Board Chair, Roshann Parris, President and CEO of KC Pet Project, Teresa Johnson, and many others. Broadway veteran, Shoshana Bean, performed at the ceremony and confetti rained down over the attendees as the ribbon was cut on the first animal shelter built for Kansas City.

"A lot of really hard work and planning went into turning this wonderful dream of a great place for our pets into this fantastic, new reality," said Councilwoman Teresa Loar, a long-time advocate for the campus. "I'm very proud of all of our volunteers and residents who voted to make this happen."

Since the city opened the campus, KC Pet Project has been busy with pet intakes, including 270 small animals from one home in Kansas City, as well as the viral story of Kansas City Chiefs' player Derrick Nnadi sponsoring the adoption fees of all of the available dogs following the team's Super Bowl victory. The Admissions Department for pet intakes, lost/found services, and owner-surrender appointments now has expanded hours and opens at 9 a.m. daily. The shelter hopes to expand its veterinary services throughout the year by offering vaccination and microchip clinics and more.

Those interested in volunteering and fostering can find information on KC Pet Project's website at **KCPETPROJECT.ORG**.

The Art of the Matter

WRITTEN BY: *Tamela Handie*

PHOTO BY: *Karen Lim*

James Martin may sound like a common name but the work he does for the City of Kansas City, Missouri, is extraordinary. Martin serves as the Public Art Administrator, a role he proudly took on in October 2019.

Kansas City is one of more than 350 U.S. cities with its own public art program, which is housed in the General Services Department's Facilities & Architecture Division.

Martin manages the City's One Percent for Art program. In 1986, the City Council passed an ordinance calling for one percent of costs of above-ground construction of buildings to be set aside for art. The first One Percent for Art Project, "Bull Wall" by Robert Morris, was installed in 1995 on the east side of what is now Hy-Vee Arena.

Martin also supports the City's Municipal Art Commission in carrying out its duties. The Commission approves all works of art placed on city property as well as their movement or removal. The City Charter defines "work of art" very broadly and includes items such as historical markers, fountains and signs. Anything that encroaches on the City right-of-way, such as shop signage, accessibility ramps, sidewalk cafés, fire escapes, traffic bollards, etc. has to be approved by the Commission, and Martin assists with that process.

We asked Martin a few questions about the local arts community:

WHAT PROJECTS ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON?

I'm currently working on public art for the new garage and single terminal at Kansas City International Airport, which is also my largest project thus far. I'm also learning how to commission public art projects associated with the General Obligation (GO) Bonds approved by voters in 2017. It's a slightly different process than the one used for art projects associated with buildings so I've had a bit of a learning curve. Stay tuned for more information on art opportunities related to the GO KC program.

WHAT DO RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR LOCAL ART COMMUNITY?

It's big and there is incredible support here for artists. There are also significant ways in which the art community can improve, such as creating more opportunities for artists of color.

HOW HAS THE ART COMMUNITY CHANGED IN KANSAS CITY SINCE YOU STARTED WORKING IN THIS FIELD?

I started working in the KC art world in 1989 at the Kansas City Artists Coalition, fresh out of the undergraduate art history program at Kansas University. Since then, the art community in Kansas City has expanded dramatically and there's a much deeper level of professionalism now. More artists are able to compete professionally on a more national and international basis than

30 years ago.

WHY ARE PUBLIC ART PROGRAMS IMPORTANT TO KANSAS CITY?

Kansas City's public art program signals to the region and to the rest of the nation and the world that the city's leaders place a high value on its art and artists, and care about nourishing the aesthetic lives of its residents.

OTHER THAN THE OBVIOUS AESTHETIC AND SENSORY APPEAL OF THE ARTS, WHAT ARE SOME OTHER ANCILLARY BENEFITS?

At this moment in our nation, we seem to find it difficult to respectfully disagree with others about topics such as politics, religion, gun violence, and gender identity and sexual orientation. Art has the potential to bring people together to listen to differing perspectives with civility. If we can learn to communicate respectfully about art, then maybe those skills can transfer to other concerns.

HOW DO YOU EXPRESS YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE?

I play bass guitar and sing and write occasionally.

Martin is excited about his new role and if he had it his way, "Art would be everywhere."

If you are an aspiring or professional artist interested in public art opportunities in Kansas City, Missouri, visit **KCMO.GOV/**
SUBSCRIBE to sign up for Public Art Opportunities notifications and Calls For Artists.





Real progress is making “Build KCI” far more than just a catchy slogan

WRITTEN BY: *Kate Sweeten*

PHOTOS BY:

from the ground UP

The demolition last summer of the dormant Terminal A was merely a prelude to the major progress being made toward building the \$1.5 billion terminal that will launch air-travel for Kansas City passengers into another stratosphere.

The three-terminal layout has remained mostly unchanged since it debuted in 1972. This massive construction project will help accommodate passenger traffic that has nearly tripled since the airport opened.

Crews are drilling through the final remnants of the nearly two thousand feet deep foundation piles and concrete work is starting to shape

the footprint of the new, one million square-foot terminal. Each deep foundation pile will be fit with a concrete cap that sandwiches grade beams, a foundation component made from steel reinforced concrete and used to connect column foundations.

Reaching this point took hundreds of hours of overnight work to relocate fuel lines so that fuel service could continue to Terminal B & C during construction. Crews bore nearly 6,500 feet of pipe under the jobsite and apron without removing pavement and roadways, minimizing the impact to air and vehicle traffic. The relocated fuel lines also will serve the new terminal when complete.

The concrete foundation work will continue this summer along with constructing the elevated roadway to the future departures level of the headhouse, as well as mass site grading for the 6,300-space parking garage being built adjacent to the terminal building.

Here are a few fun facts about the new terminal:

LARGEST SINGLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT in KCMO history

FACILITY OPENS WITH 39 gates, with the ability to expand to 50 gates

10 MODERN BATHROOMS with

"We've been set up for success."

ARIEL DAVIS

RESIDENT and WORKFORCE
TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATE

changing rooms, rooms for nursing mothers, larger stalls to accommodate luggage and diaper-changing stations in both men's and women's restrooms

TWO ALL-GENDER BATHROOMS to not only accommodate transgender travelers but also families with children of opposite genders or those with an elderly parent of the opposite gender

The Build KCI project, led by KCMO Aviation, Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate and Clark | Weitz | Clarkson isn't all brick and mortar. A needs assessment conducted by the Federal Aviation Administration in eight counties across the Kansas City metro region helped produce the Terminal Workforce Enhancement Programs (TWEP). This deal includes free transportation to the jobsite, extended childcare hours and a training program for workers.

The training program is designed to increase the number of skilled workers on the project while boosting the local workforce. There were fifteen graduates of the first training program class and overall, the program will train up to two hundred workers over the lifespan of the KCI New Terminal Project.

The three-week curriculum focuses on construction math skills, jobsite safety, first aid training, diversity and inclusion training. Participants receive a \$400 per week stipend while enrolled and, upon completion, are paid a prevailing wage while working on the terminal.

"This program didn't just teach us what will help us on the job but what will help us at home and in our personal relationships," said program graduate Ariel Davis, now working on the site with U.S. Engineering. "We've been set up for success."

For updates on the New Terminal Project, visit **BUILDKCI.COM** and follow Build KCI on Facebook and Twitter.

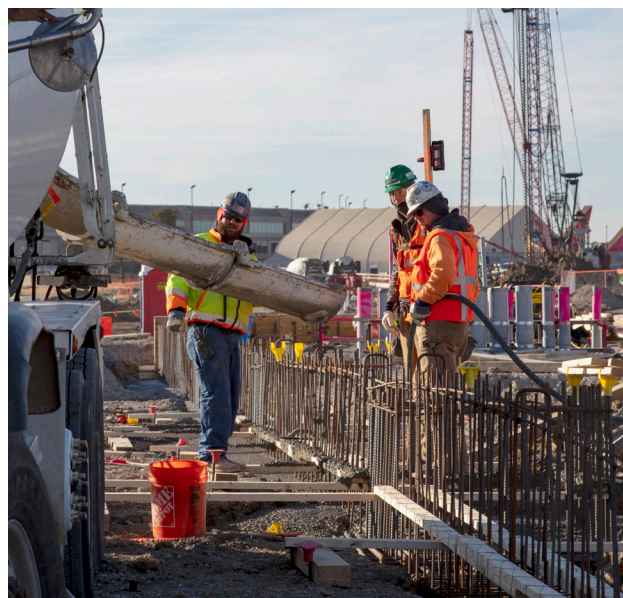




Photo provided by Glenn North

Artist hired to guide the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

WRITTEN BY:
Consuelo Cruz

Glenn North isn't a guy you can put in a box. Nope, he simply has too many skills to make that work. The man is Poet Laureate of 18th & Vine Historic Jazz District. He's an artist, educator, community organizer and creative collaborator. Now you can add Executive Director of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center to his glowing resume.

Last October, North was brought in for his wealth of perspectives, experiences and knowledge to one of the city's premier venues. His love for artistic expression started early, evolving to set the stage for

his ascension.

His grandmother nudged him along his creative path, sparking his interest in poetry at the age of eight with a copy of Rudyard Kipling's poem, "If." North recounts, "She told me if I memorized the words and lived out the poem's philosophy, I'd be a better person. I loved the rhythm, use of language and the fact that it made me have to learn new words." As an Attucks Elementary fifth grader, he won second place for a poem of his own creation, "Why I Like Me." With this recognition, a surprise party from his classmates and a newspaper

article with his photo, he realized, "This poetry thing is pretty cool. I may just stick with it."

His growing love for poetry really took off in the 1990s when he moved to Washington, D.C. A friend encouraged him to go to U Street (birthplace of Duke Ellington, considered by many as the heart of D.C. culture) to do spoken word. North's performance was well received and he went on to develop a reputation as an artist/poet.

When he returned to Kansas City in 1997, North didn't see much

"I view this time as a critical juncture, a time to reassess and reevaluate what will move us forward, and a time to think of exciting, innovative ways to engage and be valued by the community."

GLENN NORTH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *of the*
BRUCE R. WATKINS CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

of a scene for spoken word. With the opening of the American Jazz Museum and the revitalization of the 18th & Vine Historic Jazz District, he was encouraged to "start the scene." This led to the birth of "Verbal Attack," a monthly poetry night in the District's Mardi Gras Club, that he started and managed with Jay Hawkins and Marcus Brown for three years.

"The goal was to attract heavy hitter poets to read their poetry, creating a space where poetry, centered around real issues was expressed, where attacking the system and status quo was the subtext," North said.

As North's career evolved, he continued working in the Jazz District, first in the American Jazz Museum's Education Department, hosting monthly poetry slams at the Blue Room; later developing educational programs at the Black Archives of Mid-America. In 2016 North was named the Poet Laureate of the 18th & Vine Historic Jazz District.

North's also been involved in many

metro-wide projects. One of his favorites was "Check-Cashing Day," an album by veteran alto saxophonist Bobby Watson, where North was commissioned to write poems in response to seven of the music tracks. North also performed with Watson and his band locally and in Philadelphia, where the album became number one on the jazz charts.

Another project that North has been involved in since 2016 is an Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Community Remembrance Project. EJI is an organization founded by Bryan Stevenson, the subject of the movie "Just Mercy." Stevenson has issued a national call for each state to look at its history of lynching and racial violence. This project led to Kansas City erecting its first memorial in remembrance of Levi Harrington, lynched in 1862. Future programming related to the Community Remembrance Project is planned at the Black Archives and the Watkins Center.

With upcoming projects like these and the planning process for a new

strategic plan, North wants to raise the visibility of the Watkins Center.

"I want to reimagine our identity and emerge from our strategic planning process, that we've embarked on, reintroducing ourselves to Kansas City," North said. "I view this time as a critical juncture, a time to reassess and reevaluate what will move us forward, and a time to think of exciting, innovative ways to engage and be valued by the community. Bruce R. Watkins was about social justice and a great civic leader. I want the Watkins Center to be a place where people can be involved in the political process and find their voice. If you look at any social movement that's taken place, art has always been at the vanguard - poets, artists, musicians - inspiring people to take the necessary action to change things."

Visit the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center or find more information by visiting **BRUCEWATKINSCENTER.COM.**

Roll Up Your Sleeves, Kansas City! We Need Community Input for Comprehensive Plan Update

WRITTEN BY: *Beth Breitenstein*

If you had a canvas, brush, and a palette of color, how would you paint your vision for the next 20 years in the City of Kansas City, Missouri?

As we prepare to update to our 20-year Comprehensive Plan, we want to tap into that vision. What keeps you up at night? What makes you stay here? What is the biggest issue the city is facing right now? As you are impacted by city policies and plans, your input is vital to the update process and we want to know what issues are most important for you to thrive here.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan sets priorities and guides land development decisions to assure Kansas City, Missouri, is a thriving, people-centered community and a successful model for other American cities to follow. The plan helps to reinforce citywide policies and practices that have a relationship to the City's built environment. While a Comprehensive Plan will address traditional long-range

planning topics like land use, housing, transportation, economic development and recreation, supplemental topics could include:

- Citywide Business Plan and City Development
- Creative Placemaking and Cultural Development
- Socio-Economic Mobility
- Identifying Institutions as Community Anchors
- Housing Policy
- Public Health/Life Expectancy
- Public Realm
- Resiliency and Energy Conservation
- Sharing Economy and Business Disruptors
- Smart Technology and the Internet of Things (IOT)
- Historically Underdeveloped Corridors and Neighborhoods
- Physical Mobility

VALUES that will drive and inform topics within the plan include:

- Climate Mitigation
- Economic Development
- Equity
- Gentrification and Displacement
- Mutual Benefit
- Public Engagement
- Sustainability and Sustainable Development
- Wealth Building

WHY UPDATE THE PLAN?

The city's current, nationally-recognized, comprehensive plan,

FOCUS, was adopted in 1997. But, a lot has changed in 23 years.

"With changing times and emerging technologies, we aim to assure KCMO can respond to how we live, work and play - keeping values like equity at the forefront of our minds," says City Planning and Development Director Jeffrey Williams.

The city's goal is to complete the plan update by Fall 2022.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Your input is a very important part of the Comprehensive Plan update process - and don't expect a series of traditional public meetings where we ask you to come to us. To ensure diverse perspectives and vast community input, we will embark on a robust public engagement process using a variety of innovative outreach methods to meet you where you are. Public Engagement planning will be advised by a Public Engagement Steering Committee made up of community members from all across the city.

We'll start our public engagement process with an April 3rd kickoff event at Union Station. Then, the entire month of April we will be at events every day to gather your feedback. Beyond April, there will be many more opportunities to get involved.

Visit **KCMO.GOV/COMPPLAN** to find a calendar of events and sign up for our mailing list so you can keep track of where we'll be seeking your input and how you and your neighbors can be involved throughout the process. We hope to meet you soon!



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OPERATIONS
PLAN



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PLAN



MASTER TREE
PLAN



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HEALTH
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PLAN



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STREET PLAN



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PLAN



TRANSIT
PLAN



RESILIENCY
PLAN

COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN



CITYWIDE
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UNIFIED PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT



Patching our way through pothole season to a long term fix

WRITTEN BY:
Maggie Green

We all encounter potholes on our commutes these days—but what causes a pothole to form? Why do they seem worse this year? And what are we doing to address them?

Wet conditions from rain, ice and snow and repetitive freeze/thaw cycles cause potholes. Water seeps into cracks, freezes with cold temps, and the pavement expands causing potholes to form. Each freeze/thaw cycle makes the holes bigger with expansion and results in reoccurring potholes.

Pothole formation is cyclical—we've had similar experiences in the past. But we are seeing more potholes the last two seasons. Why?

ROADWAY LIFESPAN Many roads are aging out and are experiencing distress and deterioration

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE because of **INADEQUATE FUNDING** means preventative maintenance like sealing cracks and microsurfacing can't be done at the level we need.

WEATHER The last two winters experienced "typical Missouri winter weather" compared to previously mild winters.

Potholes tell us a story about the health of our pavement. KCMO Public Works cares for our pavement in many ways. Weather, temperature and budget determine what tool we use at what time.

ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTIONS through major capital projects

STREET RESURFACING through our annual Street Preservation program (a warm weather activity - late spring through late fall)

CRACKSEALING cracks in the roads, a late fall activity

POTHOLE PATCHING a year-round activity supported by our maintenance crews

The more roads we can resurface, reconstruct, and perform timely maintenance on, the more potholes will be prevented. This is dependent on budget, strategic use of staffing and resources, and coordination of activities.

During your commute, remember to take your time, don't drive distracted, and report potholes to 311!

For more information on potholes, visit **KCMO.GOV/POTHOLES**.

Later this spring, check for more info on what streets will be resurfaced this year: **KCMO.GOV/STREETPRESERVATION**.



Speaking Easy doesn't get much better than this

WRITTEN BY: *Rod Richardson*

PHOTOS BY: *Jose Gonzalez*

Ever visited a speak easy? Not the dark, smoke-filled establishment best known for serving spirited adult beverages. No, we're talking about a place where City of Kansas City, Missouri, officials invite you to come so that you can let them know exactly what's on your mind.

These days when you see this logo and tagline - "Speak Easy, because being heard shouldn't be hard" - take it as the invitation it's meant to be for you to bring to the table the ideas you have for making our city better. These public meetings are designed with you in mind and they don't work unless you show up and participate.

In recent years, the Citizen Satisfaction Survey has shown increasing dissatisfaction with the opportunity to engage in decisions made by city leaders and staff. This is significant because residents who

respond to the survey consistently rate this as one of their most important issues. With that in mind, we want to keep making it obvious and easy to collect your feedback.

That's why Speak Easy was created. It's becoming an established way to increase community engagement. We want to build a better relationship with you, be more inclusive and make better policy decisions.

It's been branded with a catchy name to focus attention on the importance of listening to you. We are improving the feedback loop - so that we do a better job of telling you when and how we use your input, and that we make sure decision-makers receive your ideas, comments and suggestions.

Our latest big push came with

the three budget hearings held in February and March. These well-attended Speak Easy events gave participants a chance to directly influence some budget priorities, given the immediate access to the Mayor and City Council. Look for more opportunities like these in the coming weeks and months as we strive to create a culture more receptive to the thoughts and desires of our most treasured resources - you, our residents.

You can also find more details on Speak Easy on our website at **KCMO.GOV/SPEAKEASY**. Here you'll find an improved events calendar, so that you can see when we have meetings or events when you can show up to provide input.

Census 2020 gives everyone a chance to stand up and be counted

WRITTEN BY: *Colleen Doctorian*

Whatever you do, please don't miss your opportunity to participate in the 2020 Census. Completing this important exercise is about much more than just being counted. Census data is used to calculate federal funding for various initiatives that can help improve our way of life here in Kansas City, Missouri.

For example, projects like the KC Streetcar, which received federal funding, are based on information that comes from the census. Census data determines how funds are distributed in urban areas in each state.

Other practical examples include:

THE CITY RECEIVES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDING for projects like bus transit, affordable housing and health care programs.

CENSUS RESULTS HELP DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF SEATS ALLOCATED in the House of Representatives.

ENSURES THAT FUNDING IS EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED for numerous programs such as Medicaid, highway planning and construction, special education

grants to states, the National School Lunch Program and Head Start.

You will soon receive a card in the mail with a code and directions to complete the census form. You can go online to complete the form, or respond by phone or mail. Filling out the form on your own time means you no longer have to wait for that familiar knock on the door from a smiling census-taker eager to jot down your answers. There are only seven questions and it should take you about 10 minutes to complete.

"This information is vital to making sure the City receives its fair share of federal dollars which help fund bus transit, education, health care and housing projects."

QUINTON LUCAS

MAYOR of
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

"It is important that everyone get counted in the Census," said Mayor Quinton Lucas. "Kids, adults and everyone who lives in your

household needs to be included when you complete your census form. This information is vital to making sure the City receives its fair share of federal dollars which help fund bus transit, education, health care and housing projects."

Remember, **COMPLETING THE CENSUS IS SAFE**. Census Bureau worker take a lifetime oath to protect confidentiality and the Census Bureau ensures that the data identifying respondents or their household will not be released or shared for 72 years. The Census will not ask your citizenship status, Social Security number or for payment of any kind.

If you do not have Internet access or a computer at home, please stop in at any Kansas City Public Library or Parks & Recreation Community Center where you can have your census questions answered and use public access computers to complete your census questionnaire.

Let's make sure that Kansas City stands up and gets counted.

For more information, visit **KCMO.GOV/CENSUS**.

YOU COUNT TÚ CUENTAS

COMPLETE *your*
2020 CENSUS
on APRIL 1

RESPONDA *al*
CENSO *de* 2020
el 1 de ABRIL

KCMO.GOV/CENSUS



How should Kansas City honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy?

WRITTEN BY:
Leslie Alford

When Kansas City voters decided not to rename Paseo Boulevard after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mayor Quinton Lucas directed the KC Parks Board of Commissioners to gather public input on how to honor King's legacy. So far, there have been more than 600 suggestions sent to KC Parks – a true indicator of how important this mission's become.

"I am humbled to have been given the opportunity as a Commissioner to help steer the conversation of how we equitably, sincerely and transparently honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in our dear City," said Chris Goode, KC Parks Board Commissioner. "Dr. King stood firmly and vocally for equality and progress. My sincere hope is that; when it is all said and done we will have continued the work of the beloved Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. and not only honored his profound legacy, but in practice lived it and truly strengthened the unity of Kansas City, Missouri, and beyond."

To further the discussion, public meetings will be scheduled for residents to work together to find creative solutions to appropriately honor Dr. King. KC Parks will facilitate several small group sessions over the next few months with a format that will allow the department to dig deeper and get more qualitative feedback. Future sessions will be scheduled at different locations and varying times to try and accommodate all schedules.

Food will be served at all sessions. Childcare will be provided for the evening and Saturday sessions.

Please register yourself and your children so that we can accommodate everyone.

The first session is:

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
10:30 A.M. | BRUSH CREEK
COMMUNITY CENTER, 3801 Brush Creek Boulevard

REGISTRATION Please email Kelly Jander, KC Parks Resident Engagement Officer, at kelly.jander@kcmo.org or call 816-513-7512.



*Don't be afraid
of doing the
right thing.*

CITY LAW PROTECTS WHISTLEBLOWERS

Report online at kcmo.gov/ethics or call the Ethics Hotline **800-340-3132**

Whistleblowers can report potential violations of city rules, wasted funds, abuse of authority or similar problems.

Whistleblower law protects residents, current or former employees, contractors and others.

#TRANSPARENCY #GOODGOVERNMENT #KCMO

New system makes it easier to ask for and receive public records

WRITTEN BY:
Rod Richardson

Transparency is a word that government officials love to use. It emphasizes their commitment to public service and reminds everyone within earshot that it's the taxpayer who calls the shots and not the municipal, county or state employee.

The City of Kansas City, Missouri, recently launched an online portal designed to stress transparency by improving access to public information. Our management and tracking system has been active for several months and the requests for public records are coming in daily.

In Missouri, public records are governed by the Sunshine Law, which applies to public governmental bodies. This covers virtually all arms of state and local government, as well as "quasi-public governmental

bodies," which are persons or corporations which, primarily, enter into contracts with public governmental bodies, accept public funds, or perform public functions.

With our Sunshine Requests Center, individuals go to a central location to submit an Open Records request. Requesters have the ability to log into the center to track the status of requests, communicate with us and obtain the requested documents. Requesters will also find answers to common Open Records questions in the FAQ section, which is set up to make it even easier to obtain the information being sought. Here's a couple tips for creating a more successful open records request:

attempt to fulfill your request within three days, but some may require more time. Requested records are likely will be delivered digitally, but governmental bodies are not required to create records that don't already exist.

PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE WITHIN YOUR REQUEST SUCH

AS: name, address, date range, and subject matter.

Please know that the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, is a federal law. The Missouri law regulating records requests is referred to as the Sunshine Law. You can learn more about Sunshine Requests by visiting **KCMO.GOV/SUNSHINE**.

PUT IT IN WRITING We will



SUMMER ENRICHMENT DAY CAMPS JUNE 8 - AUG 14

For times, locations & sign-up, visit
KCPARKS.ORG/PROGRAMS/SUMMER-CAMP



Your City Councilmembers



**HEATHER
HALL**

FIRST
DISTRICT

Aide: Markus Smith
P: 816-513-6505
E: markus.smith@kcmo.org



**KEVIN
O'NEILL**

FIRST DISTRICT
AT-LARGE

Aide: Diana Radzevich
P: 816-513-6503
E: diana.radzevich@kcmo.org



**DAN
FOWLER**

SECOND
DISTRICT

Aide: Amy Justis
P: 816-513-6509
E: amy.justis@kcmo.org



**TERESA
LOAR**

SECOND DISTRICT
AT-LARGE

Aide: Lisa Minardi
P: 816-513-6507
E: lisa.minardi@kcmo.org



**MELISSA
ROBINSON**

THIRD
DISTRICT

Aide: Marquis Everett
P: 816-513-6513
E: marquis.everett@kcmo.org



**BRANDON
ELLINGTON**

THIRD DISTRICT
AT-LARGE

Aide: Deitra Johnson
P: 816-513-6511
E: deitra.johnson@kcmo.org



**ERIC
BUNCH**

FOURTH
DISTRICT

Aide: Crissy Dastrup
P: 816-513-6517
E: crissy.dastrup@kcmo.org



**KATHERYN
SHIELDS**

FOURTH DISTRICT
AT-LARGE

Aide: Le'Shyeka Roland
P: 816-513-6515
E: leshyeka.roland@kcmo.org



**RYANA
PARKS-SHAW**

FIFTH
DISTRICT

Aide: Angela Pearson
P: 816-513-6521
E: angela.pearson@kcmo.org



**LEE
BARNES JR**

FIFTH DISTRICT
AT-LARGE

Aide: Keema McCoy
P: 816-513-6519
E: keema.mccoy@kcmo.org



**KEVIN
MCMANUS**

SIXTH
DISTRICT

Aide: Fred Wickham
P: 816-513-6525
E: fred.wickham@kcmo.org



**ANDREA
BOUGH**

SIXTH DISTRICT
AT-LARGE

Aide: Katrina Foster
P: 816-513-6523
E: katrina.foster@kcmo.org

Your City Resources

ONLINE at KCMO.GOV

Type your topic in the search bar or visit:

KCMO.GOV/NEWS

Read recent City news releases

KCMO.GOV/SUBSCRIBE

Sign up for City newsletters

KCMO.GOV/SOCIAL

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Youtube

KCMO.GOV/ALERTKC

Sign up for free community messages on your mobile phone or email

KCMO.GOV/CAREERS

Search and apply for job openings in City government

KCMO.GOV/BIZCARE

Learn how to start up a business and obtain licenses and permits

KCMO.GOV/KCMORE

Read past issues of this magazine

KCMO.GOV/COMPASSKC

Use the City's permitting system

311 CALL CENTER

Call 311 or 816-513-1313 or visit kcmo.gov/311 for general questions and service requests

ANIMAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Call 311 or 816-513-9821

CHANNEL 2

Watch kcmo.gov/channel2 for live coverage of City Council, weekly City news and special events

MUNICIPAL COURT TICKETS

Visit kcmo.gov/court to learn about the many ways you can look up a case or call 816-513-2700

TOW LOT

Search for a towed vehicle at autoreturn.com or call 816-513-0670

RECYCLING AND TRASH

Call 311 or visit kcmo.gov/trash

KC WATER

Call 816-513-1313, 311 (Option 1) or visit kcwater.us/contact-us

City of
Kansas City,
Missouri

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Kansas City, MO 64106

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*****ECRWSSSEDDM****

Postal Customer



CITY OF
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

Leaf & Brush

KCWATER.US/LEAF-BRUSH

..... YOUR TRASH DAY	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
MONDAY	APRIL 20	APRIL 13	APRIL 6
TUESDAY	APRIL 21	APRIL 14	APRIL 7
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 22	APRIL 15	APRIL 8
THURSDAY	APRIL 23	APRIL 16	APRIL 9
FRIDAY	APRIL 24	APRIL 17	APRIL 10

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

- **SAME DAY** as trash/recycling collection
- Curbside by 7 A.M.
- **LIMIT OF 20** sacks and/or bundles
- Paper sacks **ONLY**
- **BRUSH BUNDLED** 4'x2' with twine only
- **NO** duct tape
- **NO** trash
- **CONTACT 311** within 24 hours to report a miss

REGIONAL MAP

Spring + Summer 2020

